



## Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

*Celebrating 33 Years of Leadership & Advocacy*

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### MEMBERS

Kecia B. Weller  
**President**

Janet A. Neal  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

John B. Troost  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Bernard Siegel  
**Treasurer**

Wan Chun Chang  
Michael G. Gureckas  
Maria Mustelier-Parrish  
Alexia Teran  
Harley D. Rubenstein  
Wendy L. Welt  
Sheila D. Wright

### **MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Kecia B. Weller at 1:12 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, and the following Commissioners were present at the meeting: President Kecia B. Weller, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Janet A. Neal, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President John B. Troost, Treasurer Bernard Siegel, Commissioners Michael G. Gureckas, Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Alexia Teran and Wendy Welt. Commissioners Harley Rubenstein, Wan Chun Chang, and Sheila D. Wright were not present.

### **APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2008 MINUTES**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal recommended that a summary be prepared for those instances in which the Commission meets and there is not a quorum. The Commission agreed with her recommendation.

After, discussion, on motion of Commissioner Welt and seconded by Commissioner Mustelier-Parrish, the minutes for the meeting of the October 15, 2008 were approved. Said motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Commissioners Weller, Troost, Gureckas, Mustelier-Parrish, Teran, and Weller

Noes: None

Abstentions: Commissioners Neal and Siegel

### **APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A FLOWER ARRANGEMENT**

On motion of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal, seconded by Commissioner Welt, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the purchase of a flower arrangement in memory of Ms. Maria Vega in the amount of \$102.73 from the Commission's trust fund account.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Linda Block provided public comment and reported that Los Angeles City Mayor Villaraigosa and California Governor Schwarzenegger plan to raise local and state taxes.

(Commissioner Sheila Wright joined the meeting.)

Sharon Lyle provided public comment and reported that she has encountered problems when trying to secure assistance from the California Department of Rehabilitation.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Weller reported on the Great Southern California "ShakeOut" day held in November 2008. She stressed the importance of this event and noted that people with disabilities should prepare for natural disasters which are unavoidable and can strike at any time.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal added that the Commission will seek assistance from the Los Angeles City Fire Department to request emergency preparedness training for the Commission.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, reported the following:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 1234, which became effective January 1, 2006, requires the County to provide ethics training to elected County officials, members of certain County commissions, and any County employee designated by the County to receive such training. Members of commissions who receive a stipend are required to take this training every two years. This year, DHR developed web-based training for individuals who would like to take the training online.

Commission staff has signed up all the Commissioners that agreed to take the web-based training on a computer. Commissioners that have not received notification regarding the on-line course should receive notices shortly. Notifications include instructions on logging on to the system and taking the course. Commissioners may contact staff if assistance is needed or if they do not receive notification within three weeks.

Commissioners that expressed interest in attending the instructor-led training were scheduled for January 15, 2009. Commissioners who were unable to attend this training can contact staff to arrange training in the second quarter of the year.

- Effective January 1, 2009, Commissioner Services' staff began providing the minutes and agendas electronically via e-mail. This process is based on a September 11, 2007, Board of Supervisors motion instructing the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Officer of the Board and the Director of Internal Services to explore opportunities for reducing paper-based correspondence in favor of a more user friendly intranet system.

(Commissioner Wan Chun Chang joined the meeting.)

**PRESENTATION BY MS. PAMILA LEW, DISABILITY RIGHTS OF CALIFORNIA, ON INCIDENTS OF ABUSE ON CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

President Weller welcomed, thanked and introduced Ms. Pamela Lew, Attorney for *Disability Rights California* formerly known as *Protection and Advocacy*. Ms. Lew provided the Commission with a report titled, "Abuse and Neglect of Adults with Developmental Disabilities: A Public Health Priority for the State of California, and reported the following:

- Elimination of abuse and neglect of people with developmental disabilities must be made a public health priority in California.
- Legislature must designate a lead agency with authority and responsibility to coordinate system reform.

- An integrated data collection system must be implemented to document the incidence of abuse and neglect and track the outcomes of criminal investigations and prosecutions.
- The current system of protections is inadequate for victims with developmental disabilities.
- Regional centers must have an increased and uniform role in coordinating the response and services provided to victims.
- Incidents of abuse or neglect in long-term care facilities must be investigated by the law enforcement division of developmental centers.
- Individuals within the abuse response and criminal justice systems lack training and expertise in working with people with developmental disabilities.
- All agencies involved in the abuse response system must receive mandatory training regarding working with individuals with developmental disabilities.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Weller, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved a motion to invite representatives from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to discuss their efforts to address crimes against people with disabilities.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee**

President Weller reported the following:

- How the Commission may enhance and streamline the application method and the criteria by which the applicants receive Bill Tainter Scholarship Grants.

- The feasibility of holding a Commission retreat in July 2009 in the vicinity of San Pedro to discuss the needs and priorities of people with disabilities.
- Holding future Executive Committee meetings at 12:30 p.m., on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month, prior to the regular Commission meeting.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Neal, seconded by Commissioner Mustelier-Parrish, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to pay for refreshments for an anticipated 2008 year-end wrap-up meeting in the amount of \$281.25.

Further, the Committee agreed to hold future Executive Committee meetings at 12:30 p.m., on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month, prior to the regular Commission meeting.

### **Public Relations Committee**

#### *Disability Network Radio Program KTYM 1460 AM*

On motion of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal, seconded by Commission Teran, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the following criteria for the captioning services for the Commission's radio show, the "Disability Network" aired on KTYM 1460 AM:

1. Visual and audio live streaming on the Commission web site.
2. Five-second delay service
3. Process is compatible with "screen reader" and "voice recognition" software-equipment
4. Processes meet 508 and/or W3C Standards

### **Events Committee**

#### *Access Awards Luncheon*

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal reported that the Committee discussed changing the location of the Access Awards Luncheon from the Grand Kyoto Hotel and Garden to the Music Center to accommodate more guests and selecting a feasible date in October 2009 on which the event can take place.

### **Community Services Committee**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal reported on a series of incidents that an owner of a gas station located in Torrance, CA, is having with a person who is threatening to file legal action against this gas station owner for not having an accessible parking space available.

She further added that the Committee would like to offer the following recommendations to the Board of Supervisors:

- Raise the fines for parking illegally in accessible parking spaces or using disabled parking placards illegally by \$100. The fines should be doubled for second offenders. Earmark a percentage of the increase of the fine to the County of LA to assist with services for the disabled community.
- Adopt a County ordinance that would fine gasoline stations for refusing to refuel for disabled individuals. Earmark a percentage of the fine to Los Angeles County. Fines should be doubled from \$50 to \$100 for a subsequent offense, i.e. \$50 first offense, \$100 second offense, and \$300 for third offense.
- Request that a portion of fines related to ADA violations in buildings be earmarked to LA County to assist with enhancing the services of the disabled community.

### **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

#### *ASI Report*

Mr. Kurt Hagen provided the Commission with a written ASI Report and added the following:

- The last Access Services Board of Directors (ASI) meeting was held on January 5, 2009.
- No reportable action was taken in Closed Session.
- The minutes for the ASI meeting of October 27, 2008, were approved without modification.

- Ms. Donna Pomerantz addressed the ASI Board during public comment and reported the incident of a legally blind rider who had difficulties with ASI's Customer Service Section while trying to obtain rider coupons that he did not receive in the mail. Daniel Garcia also provided Public Comment.
- ASI has a \$3.8 million shortfall budget due to a variety of factors, including high gas prices, increased ridership and the economic downturn. ASI tried to secure financing from METRO; however, the request was denied. As a result of the budget shortfall, a fare increase seemed to be the least burdensome on the rider.
- ASI will begin Community Outreach on the proposed fare increases in January 2009, followed by community meetings and public hearings in February and March of 2009. On April 27, 2009, policy and fare changes will be submitted to the ASI Board for approval. The Paratransit Plan Update will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration in May 2009. Policy/Fare change rider notification is slated for June 2009, and the Policy/Fare change implementation for July 2009.
- The ASI Board also left the possibility of a combination of service cuts and fare increases on the table. A tentative hearing date for potential changes is March 12, 2009, at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. More information will follow.

*MTA Report*

There was none.

**REPORT BY GORDON ANTHONY, SENIOR DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

In the absence of Mr. Gordon Anthony, Mr. Kurt Hagen reported the following:

- Mr. Gordon Anthony is still on medical leave and his return date is uncertain.

- The Office of Affirmative Action Compliance has two new deputies – Ms. Angela Davis and Ms. Lorena Gomez. They plan to attend the next Commission meeting.
- OACC, Disability Civil rights, is still in the process of completing the final 24 departments in the project to update the County of Los Angeles' Transition and Self-Evaluation Plans. Completion date is slated for June 30, 2009.

### **ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Neal requested that the following items be placed on a future agenda for discussion:

- Commissioners' attendance to Commission meetings and the cancellation of meetings at which a quorum is not present.
- Standards for WC 19 wheelchairs (a voluntary industry standard for designing and manufacturing a wheelchair that is used as a seat in a motor vehicle).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Weller announced that she is currently working as a teacher's assistance with the "*Pathways Program*," an extension program at UCLA, where she assists with a society and culture class for 15 disabled students, ages 15-25 years old.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Neal, seconded by Commissioner Mustelier-Parrish, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.



**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Kecia Weller, President  
Janet A. Neal, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
John B. Troost, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Bernard Siegel, Treasurer  
Wan-Chun Chang  
Michael Gureckas  
Maria Mustelier-Parrish  
Alexia Teran  
Wendy L. Welt  
Sheila Wright

**Guests**

Pamila Lew, Disability Rights California  
Mona Lisa Gene, LifeSigns, Inc.  
Jane Goodman, Total Recall  
Magda Carrero, Eastern Los Angeles  
Regional Center  
Jesse Padilla, Eastern Los Angeles  
Regional Center  
Linda Block  
Sharon Lyle  
Ragen Jayasiry, LACP

**Excused Absence**

Harley Rubenstein

**Los Angeles County**

Kurt Hagen, OAAC

**Board of Supervisors**

Rosemary Osuna, Staff  
Martha Arana, Staff  
Audra Galang, Staff

**ASI**

Luis Pacheco